



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Northeast Fisheries Science Center  
166 Water Street  
Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026

May 3, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: AIS Observers

FROM: David Potter  
Branch Chief, FSB

SUBJECT: Haddock Separator Trawl Net  
and the Flounder Trawl Net

This memo is intended to clarify and specify how to complete the Trawl Gear Characteristics Log for the Haddock Separator Trawl Net and the Flounder Trawl Net. These nets are required to be used in certain areas during specified times of the year. Therefore, it is important to understand net characteristics, configuration, and utilization of these nets. Obtaining accurate data is important since observer data will be analyzed to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of these nets. The intent of both nets is to increase selectivity thus reduce cod bycatch, while being able to target other healthy fish stocks, such as haddock and some species of flatfish.

### **Background**

Amendment 13 was developed by the New England Fishery Management Council to implement strategic management objectives thus end overfishing and rebuild NE multispecies stocks in accordance to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Framework 40-A was developed to provide additional opportunities and economic incentives for NE multispecies vessels to target healthy fish stocks in an effort to help achieve optimum yield from the fishery. Consequently, the economic incentives work to mitigate some of the economic impacts resulting from effort reductions implemented under Amendment 13. Under Framework 40-A, special management programs were developed to allow fishing in otherwise closed areas but with specific requirements and restrictions. One of these requirements is the use of conservation-engineered selective trawl gear that utilizes panels and fish outlets to allow specific fish to escape.

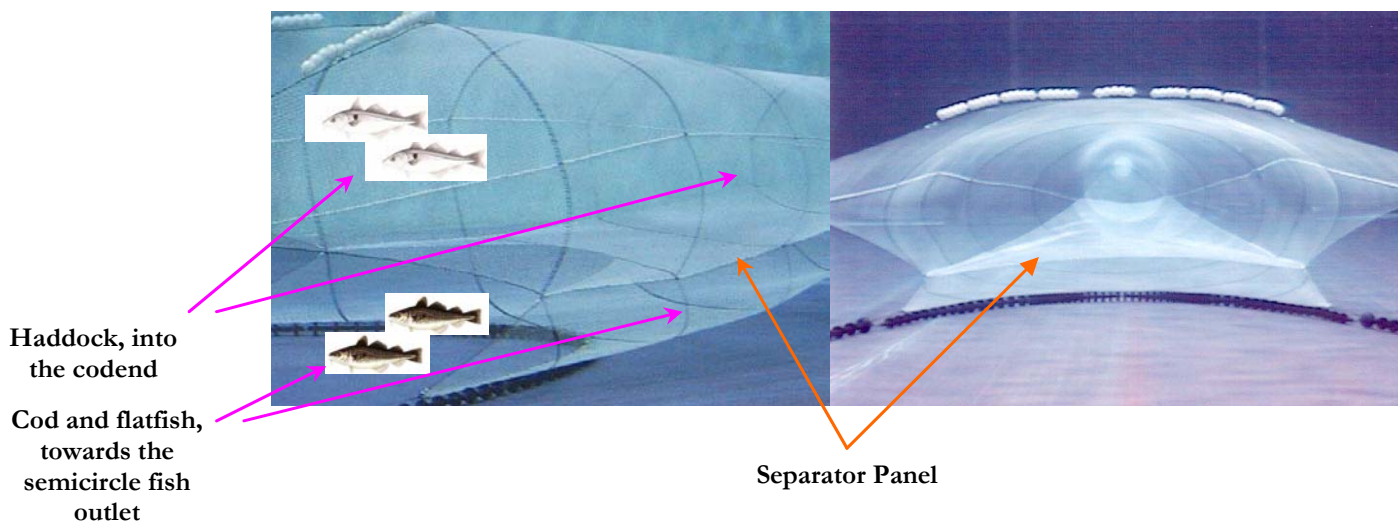
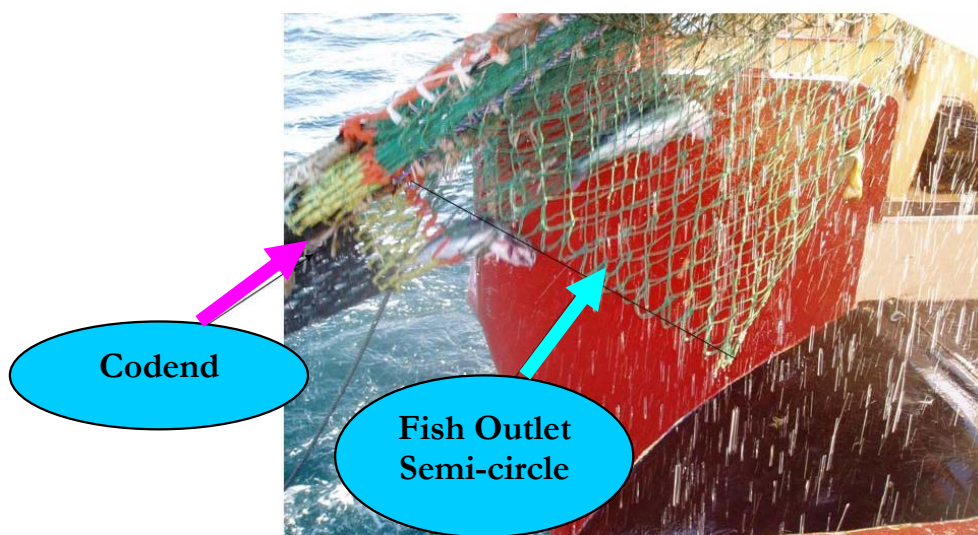
Northeast multispecies vessels fishing with trawl gear in the Eastern U.S./Canada Area must fish with a Haddock Separator Trawl or a Flounder Trawl Net. In addition, the Haddock Separator Trawl must be used in the Eastern Haddock Special Access Program. Currently, under the Emergency Interim Rule, the Haddock Separator Trawl is required for the Regular B-Day At Sea (DAS) Program, unless the vessel has flipped to A-DAS from B-DAS.



## The Haddock Separator Trawl Net

According to 50 C.F.R. § 648.85, a haddock separator trawl is defined as a groundfish trawl modified to a vertically oriented trouser trawl configuration, with two extensions arranged one over the other, with a codend attached only to the upper extension, and the bottom extension left open with no codend attached. In addition, a horizontal separating panel constructed with a minimum of 6.0 inch diamond mesh must be installed laterally between the selvages joining the upper and lower panels, extending forward from the front of the trouser junction to the aft edge of the first belly behind the fishing circle.

### Haddock Separator Trawl Images



### **The Flounder Trawl Net**

A flounder trawl net is defined as bottom trawl gear meeting the following description:

A two-seam, low-rise net constructed with mesh size (in compliance with 50 C.F.R. § 684.80(a)(4)), with the exception that the top panel of the net (the square of the net) contains a section of mesh at least 10 feet long and stretching from selvedge to selvedge (which joins the upper and lower panels of the trawl), composed of at least 12-inch mesh that is inserted no farther than 4.5 meshes behind the headrope.

### **The Trawl Gear Characteristics Log**

There are two sections of the Trawl Gear Characteristics Log that need special attention when recording the data of these two nets. Confusion of how and what to record in these sections has occurred. The “Excluder/Separator Device” and the “Fish Outlet” section need to be properly completed to accurately describe and identify these nets. The Excluder/Separator Device is the portion of the trawl net that excludes or separates certain species from being caught. Examples of these devices include a grate, excluder device, separator panel, funnel, or raised footrope. The Fish Outlet is used to provide an opening in the net to facilitate escape of certain species, which may or may not be used in conjunction with an excluder device. The separator panel needs only to be checked off as being there or not. The fish outlet includes dimensions, shape, and location. The Haddock Separator Trawl has a separator panel, the flounder net does not. The fish outlet on the Haddock Separator Trawl is the semi-circular open extension where no codend is attached. The fish outlet on the flounder net is the panel of large mesh on the square of the net.

#### Example: Separator Trawl Net

**Separator Device Used** = Yes

**Type** = Separator Panel

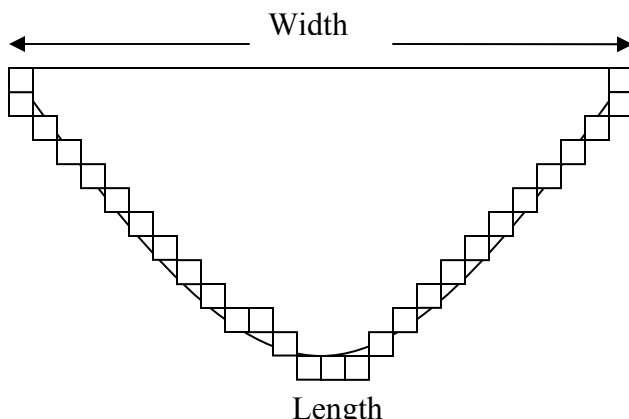
**Fish Outlet Used** = Yes

**Fish Outlet Length** = Record in whole inches, the length of the fish outlet from the front to the back of the net; i.e., record the length of the outer circumference by counting the number of meshes in the semi-circle from one side to the other and multiply the number of meshes by the size of the mesh. You may ask the captain.

**Fish Outlet Width** = Record in whole inches, the width of the fish outlet from side to side of the net; i.e., record the width of the fish outlet by measuring the straight axis of the semi-circle. You may ask the captain.

**Fish Outlet Shape** = Record the shape of the fish outlet as “other” and record “semi-circle” in the comment section.





**Location** = Record the location of the fish outlet. Check off “bottom” as this is the most appropriate descriptive code for the fish outlet being on the underside of the net. You may also specify in comments, “Fish outlet was open extension on the lower portion of the net below the anterior of the codend”.

OBS/TRIP ID		010
DATE LANDED mm/yy		05/05
<b>GEAR MOUNTED ELECTRONICS</b>		<b>EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE</b>
USED? NO 0 YES 1X		USED? NO 0 YES 1X
TYPE		Unknown 0
NUMBER OF TRANSDUCERS 2		Nordmore Grate 1
TYPE		T.E.D. 2
Unknown 0		Separator Panel 3X
Wired 1		Gauging Device 4
Wireless 2X		Raised Footrope 5
BRAND		Combination 8
Unknown 0		Other 9
Furuno® 1		<b>FISH OUTLET</b>
Simrad® 2X		USED? NO 0 YES 1X
Other 9		LENGTH 60 in
		WIDTH 30 in
		SHAPE
LOCATION		Unknown 00
Unknown 0		Rectangular 01
Headrope 1		Square 06
Wings 2		Diamond 07
Footrope 3		Triangular 08
Headrope & Footrope 4		Other 99
Other Combo 8		Other 99
Other 9		Other 99
Dorsal 1		LOCATION
Other 9		Unknown 0
		Top 1
		Bottom 2X
		Side 3
		Combination 8
		Other 9
# OF RECEIVERS 1		

Example: Flounder Trawl Net

**Separator Device Used** = No

**Type** = Not filled out since there is none

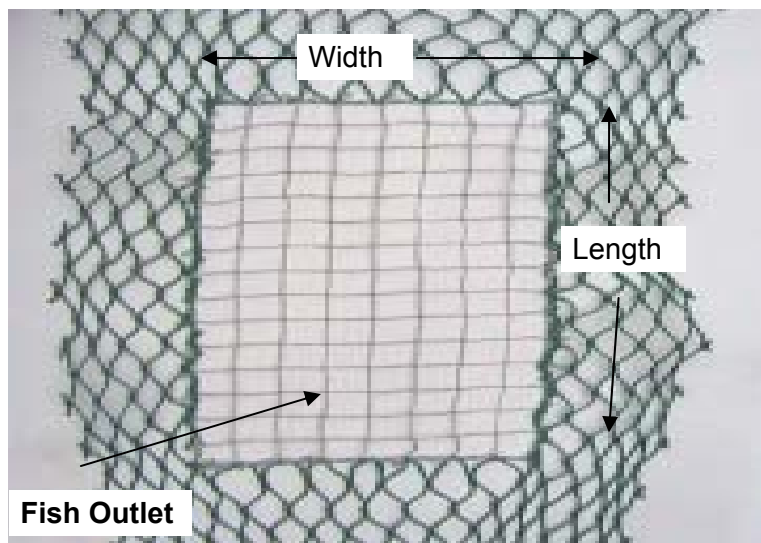
**Fish Outlet Used** = Yes

**Fish Outlet Length** = Record in whole inches, the length of the fish outlet from the front to the back of the net; i.e. by counting the number of meshes of the top panel from the front to the back of the net, and multiply the number of meshes by the size of the mesh (should be 12-inch mesh of at least 10 meshes long = 120 inches). You may ask the captain.

**Fish Outlet Width** = Record in whole inches, the width of the fish outlet from side to side of the net; i.e. by counting the number of meshes of the top panel from side to side of the net and multiply the number of meshes by the size of the mesh (should be 12-inch mesh from selvage to selvage). You may ask the captain.

**Fish Outlet Shape** = Record the shape of the fish outlet. The shape is usually rectangular, but may be square or triangular. Do not confuse this with the shape of the mesh (diamond or square) or the location of the outlet (in the square of the net), as this log example shows.

Front side of net = mouth side



Back side of net = codend side

**Location** = Record the location of the fish outlet. For the flounder trawl net, the outlet is in the “top” of the net.

OBS/TRIP ID		DATE LANDED mm/yy	
05-1009-		04/05	
GEAR MOUNTED ELECTRONICS		EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE	
USED?	NO 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES 1	USED?	NO 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES 1
NO 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		TYPE	
YES 1		Unknown	0
		Nordmore Grate	1
NUMBER OF TRANSDUCERS		T.E.D.	2
		Separator Panel	3
TYPE		Guiding Device	4
Unknown	0	Raised Footrope	5
Wired	1	Combination	6
Wireless	2	Other	9
BRAND		FISH OUTLET	
Unknown	0	USED?	NO 0 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furuno®	1	LENGTH	141 in
Simrad®	2	WIDTH	409 in
Other	9	SHAPE	
LOCATION		Unknown	00
Unknown	0	Rectangular	01
Headrope	1	Square	02 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wings	2	Diamond	03
Footrope	3	Triangular	04
Headrope & Footrope	4	Other	99
Other Combo	8	LOCATION	
Other	9	Unknown	0
		Top	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Bottom	2
		Side	3
		Combination	8
		Other	9
# OF RECEIVERS			

If either of these nets is used, write the net name in the Comments section of the Gear Characteristics Log, such as “Haddock Separator Trawl Net” or “Flounder Trawl Net”.

Thank you for your continued attention to this matter. For additional questions, please contact Amy Van Atten at 508-495-2266 or by email at [Amy.Van.Atten@noaa.gov](mailto:Amy.Van.Atten@noaa.gov).

*This memo only references NE multispecies regulations implemented under the Framework 40-A (Final Rule for Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Amendment 13 and Framework Adjustment 40-A April 27, 2004 and correction to that rule December 27, 2005) and the emergency action to reduce fishing mortality on specific groundfish stocks effective May 1, 2006 (April 10, 2006 and April 26, 2006) and should not be considered as a substitute for the actual regulations. Regulations can be seen in their entirety by accessing the Northeast Regional Office’s webpage at: <http://www.nero.noaa.gov>.*

Attachment: Trawl Gear Characteristics Log with related fields highlighted



**NMFS FISHERIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
TRAWL GEAR CHARACTERISTICS LOG**

OBS/TRIP ID	
DATE LANDED mm/yy	/

GEAR NUMBER(S)	CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL		LENGTH MEASUREMENTS		CODEND	GEAR MOUNTED	EXCLUDER/SEPARATOR DEVICE
	TYPE	NET BODY	CODEND	Headrope	ft	HUNG	USED? NO 0 YES 1
	Unknown	00				Unknown	0
GEAR CODE	Nylon	01		Footrope/Sweep	ft	Diamond	1
	Poly	02				Square	2
	Kevlar®	03		Ground Cable	ft	Square, Wrapped	3
	Spectra®	04				Combination	8
DOORS USED?	Tenex®	05		FISHING CIRCLE		NUMBER OF TRANSDUCERS	
NO 0 YES 1	Nomex®	06		# MESHES		TYPE	
	Combination	98		MESH SIZE	in	Unknown 0	
WEIGHT OF ONE DOOR	Other	99				Wired 1	
kg						Wireless 2	
COMMENTS		GROUND GEAR				MESH SIZE	mm
		TYPE	GROUND CABLE	BRIDLE/LEG	SWEEP	BRAND	
		Unknown	0			Unknown 0	
		Chain	1			Furuno® 1	
		Cable / Wire	2			Simrad® 2	
		Wrapped Cable	3			Other 9	
		Rock Hopper	4			SHAPE	
		Roller	5			Unknown 00	
		Rubber Cookie	6			Rectangular 01	
		Bobbin	7			Square 06	
		None	8			Diamond 07	
		Other	9			Triangular 08	
						Other 99	
						LOCATION	
						Unknown 0	
						Top 1	
						Bottom 2	
						Side 3	
						Combination 8	
						Other 9	
						LOCATION	
						Unknown 0	
						Top 1	
						Bottom 2	
						Side 3	
						Combination 8	
						Other 9	
						LOCATION	
						Unknown 0	
						Top 1	
						Bottom 2	
						Side 3	
						Combination 8	
						Other 9	
						LOCATION	
						Unknown 0	
						Top 1	
						Bottom 2	
						Side 3	
						Combination 8	
						Other 9	
						LOCATION	
						Unknown 0	
						Top 1	
						Bottom 2	
						Side 3	
						Combination 8	
						Other 9	
						LOCATION	
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